

**Natural Resources Conservation
Service**

**Application Ranking Summary
SDF Strike Force**

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: SDF Strike Force		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10 Point(s)

2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Point(s)
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	10 Point(s)
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10 Point(s)

6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. G - Answer YES if applicant has NEVER had an EQIP contract? (35 points)	35 Point(s)
2. WQ1 Is applicant willing to commit to the proper disposal of normal animal mortality by using an animal mortality facility?? (7points)	7 Point(s)
3. WQ2 - Is the applicant willing commit to implementing roof runoff structures as part of a roof runoff management system to divert runoff away from animal waste storage areas? (2 points)	2 Point(s)
4. WQ3 - Is applicant willing to commit to store and manage liquid animal waste according to a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan? (5 points)	5 Point(s)
5. WQ4 - Is the applicant willing to commit to store and manage poultry litter according to a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan? (5 points)?	5 Point(s)
8. SQ1. Are you currently producing vegetables and intend to install a Season High Tunnel House? (6 points)	6 Point(s)
9. SQ2. Do you wish to use a Seasonal High Tunnel House for off season vegetable production (November thru February - this question is only applicable if you answer yes to question 8) (4 points)	4 Point(s)
10. SQ3 Will the crops grown under the high tunnel be marketed locally (within 50 miles)? (3 points)	3 Point(s)
11. SQ4 Will this practice (seasonal high tunnel house) be installed to help the producer reduce nutrient/pesticide use? (3 points)	3 Point(s)
12. You will use cover crops and/or mulch to increase soil organic matter to insure a positive soil conditioning index? (3 points)	3 Point(s)
13. SQ5. You will use cover crops and/or mulch to increase soil organic matter to insure a positive soil conditioning index? (2 points)	2 Point(s)

14. FW1 - Are Timber Stand Improvement practices planned on half of the offered woodland acres that need treatment? The following practices are required to receive points for this question: Hardwood crop tree release, Understory release in mid-rotation forest stands (pine or hardwood), and Precommercial thinning in dense, stagnant young pine stands. If the answer to this question is yes, answer to questions FW2, FW3, FW6, FW7, and FW8 must be no. (6 points)	6 Point(s)
15. FW2 - Are longleaf pine, shortleaf pine, or hardwood seedling planting or silvopasture establishment planned on half of the offered acres that need treatment? If the answer to this question is yes, answer to questions FW1, FW3, FW6, FW7, and FW8 must be no. (4 points)	4 Point(s)
16. FW3 Is early successional habitat management planned to be implemented or riparian forest buffer (of any size) planned to be implemented that directly benefit streams with known T & E species (please consult T&E species maps)? If the answer to this question is yes, answer to questions FW1, FW3, FW6, FW7, and FW8 must be no (4 points)	4 Point(s)
17. FW4 - Is prescribed fire and associated firebreaks if needed planned on property on a 2 or 3 year rotation on half of the offered woodland acres that need treatment? (8 points)	8 Point(s)
18. FW5 - Is applicant applying for tree planting, where he/she had lost their newly planted trees during recent exceptional droughts and/or other natural disasters? (8 points)	8 Point(s)
19. FW6 - Are low density loblolly or shortleaf pine seedling planting planned on half of the offered acres that need treatment? If the answer to this question is yes, answer to questions FW1, FW2, FW3, FW7, and FW8 must be no. (3 points)	3 Point(s)
20. FW7 - Is chemical release needed and planned on at least half of the offered acres? If the answer to this question is yes, answer to questions FW1, FW2, FW3, FW6, and FW8 must be no. (3 points)	3 Point(s)

21. FW8 - Is prescribed fire and associated firebreaks if needed planned on property on a 2 or 3 year rotation on half of the offered woodland acres that need treatment and has a thinning operation taken place on the offered acres within the last 3 years? If the answer to this question is yes, answer to questions FW1, FW2, FW3, FW6, and FW7 must be no. (20 points)	20 Point(s)
22. GL1 - Is the applicant implementing cross fence to establish or enhance a prescribed grazing system where pastures are allowed to rest at least 80% of the grazing cycle on more than half of all the grazing lands offered acres? Example: Five pasture grazing system. Full grazing cycle is 50 days with a maximum of 10 consecutive days on each pasture. Pastures are resting 40 consecutive days. If the answer is yes then the answers to questions GL2 and GL3 must be no. (15 points)	20 Point(s)
23. GL2 -Is the applicant implementing cross fencing to establish or enhance a prescribed grazing system where pastures are allowed to rest at least 75% of the grazing cycle on more than half of all the grazing lands offered acres? Example: Four pasture grazing system. Full grazing cycle is 56 days, with a maximum of 14 consecutive days on each pasture. Pastures are resting 42 consecutive days before grazing begins. If the answer is yes then the answers to questions GL1 and GL3 must be no. (15 points)	15 Point(s)
24. GL3 -Is the applicant implement cross fencing to establish or enhance a prescribed grazing system where pastures are allowed to rest at least 66% of the grazing cycle on more than half of all the grazing lands offered acres? Example: Three pasture grazing system. Full grazing cycle is 42 days with a maximum of 14 consecutive days on each pasture. Pastures are resting 27 consecutive days before grazing begins. If the answer is yes then the answers to questions GL1 and GL2 must be no (10 points)	10 Point(s)

25. Is the applicant willing to establish and maintain at least twenty percent (maximum of 20 acres to be established or whichever is less) of grazeable acres of native warm season grasses as part of a prescribed grazing system? Grasses include one or more of the following: switchgrass, eastern gamagrass, big bluestem, little bluestem, or indiangrass. (3 points)	6 Point(s)
26. GL5- On eligible sites, is the applicant willing to establish perennial legumes into perennial cool season or annual or perennial into warm season grass pasture land or hay land to improve forage quality and quantity, supplying nitrogen and promoting energy conservation? If legumes exist, to qualify, the stand of perennial legumes must not exceed 25% uniform coverage (5 points)	5 Point(s)
27. GL6 - Has applicant attended a Grazing School/Clinic sponsored by the Alabama Forage and Grassland Coalition, NRCS, Cooperative Extension, University, or Cattlemen's Association in Alabama or other states? (2 points)	2 Point(s)
28. GL7 - Is applicant willing to treat critically eroding areas in the offered fields in pasture, hayland, silvopasture? All critically eroding areas in the offered fields must be properly treated. (6 Points)	6 Point(s)
29. GL8 - Is applicant willing to install seep/spring development(s), pumping plants, or pond(s) for livestock water to facilitate prescribed grazing? If this water source is chosen, then other water sources should receive a "no" answer. (2 Points)	2 Point(s)
30. GL9 - Is applicant willing to install well and/or pipeline and trough(s) for livestock water to facilitate prescribed grazing? If this water source is chosen then other water sources should receive a "no" answer. (5 Points)	5 Point(s)

31. GL10 - - Is applicant willing to establish heavy use area protection (HUA) for areas that have been damaged by livestock or establish animal trails, walkways, streams or access roads as part of a prescribed grazing system? Examples: existing watering facilities, streams without HUA, whether trough or pond, or static feeding areas. Livestock will be fenced from pond(s) except at site of HUA livestock entrance. Constructed fencing will result in at least 2 grazing zones giving forages rest for regrowth. This should not be used for maintenance of existing fences or HUA's. (Do not answer yes to new watering facility.) (10 Points)	10 Point(s)
33. SQ6 - Will all Class IIIe, IVe, Ve, VIe, VIIe, or VIIIe cropland be converted to permanent cover (grass or trees)? Conversion must be on more than half of all offered acres. If answer to this question is yes, answers to SQ7, SQ8, and SQ9 must be no. (15 points)	15 Point(s)
34. SQ7 - Will the applicant establish perennial grasses in rotation on the land that is offered in this application? If answer to this question is yes, answers to SQ6, SQ8, and SQ9 must be no.(12 points)	12 Point(s)
35. SQ8 - The applicant will adopt reduced Tillage - 345 (which requires a cover crop) from a conventional system that they are current performing or increase the level of reduced Tillage that they currently have been achieving. If answer to this question is yes, answers to SQ6, SQ7, and SQ9 must be no.(8 points)	8 Point(s)
36. 33. SQ9 - The applicant will adopt Conservation Tillage - 345 at a higher level than they are currently performing (strip till to no-till). If answer to this question is yes, answers to SQ6, SQ8, and SQ9 must be no.(10 points)	10 Point(s)
38. 34. SQ10 - Is applicant willing to use legumes included in the cover crop in a conservation tillage system on more than half of all the offered acres? (2 points)	2 Point(s)

39 SQ11 - Is ephemeral gully erosion or a classical (caving type) gully or critically eroding areas present in or near the field, and is applicant willing to install practices necessary to treat the erosion and reduce off-site damages? This question can apply to any land use. (20 points)	20 Point(s)
40. SQ12 – Is applicant willing to adopt precision agriculture technology for nutrients at level 1? If the answer to this questions is yes, then the answer to SQ13 is no. (7 points)	7 Point(s)
41 SQ13 – Is applicant willing to adopt precision agriculture technology for nutrients at level 2? If the answer to this questions is yes, then the answer to SQ12 is no. (6 points)	6 Point(s)
42. SQ10 - Does the applicant need to address an erosion issue in a field with the installation of terraces, terraces and underground outlets, or a water and sediment control basin. (10 points)	10 Point(s)
49. SQ14 - Does the applicant need to address an erosion issue in a field with the installation of terraces, terraces and underground outlets, or a water and sediment control basin. (4 Points)	4 Point(s)
50. Applicant commits to control cogongrass that is present on the offered land. (7 points) If the answer to this questions is yes, then the answer to the other invasive species plant questions is no.	7 Point(s)
51. Applicant commits to control Japanese Climbing fern or Multi-flora Rose that are on the offered land? (4 points) If the answer to this questions is yes, then the answer to the other invasive species plant questions is no.	4 Point(s)
52. Applicant commits to control Kudzu, McCartney Rose, Cherokee Rose or Chinese Tallow Tree that are present on the offered land? (2 points) If the answer to this questions is yes, then the answer to the other invasive species plant questions is no.	2 Point(s)

53. The infestation(s) by all eligible species occupy 10% or less of management tract, field or area? (If the answer to this question is yes, the answer to 54 is NO). (4 points)	4 Point(s)
54. The infestation(s) by all eligible species occupy > 10% of management tract, field or area? (If the answer to this question is yes, the answer to 53 is NO). (2 points)	2 Point(s)
55. Are adjacent tracts, fields, or areas free from known infestations? (3 points)	3 Point(s)
56. In areas where eligible invasive species will be controlled, is applicant implementing the establishment native grasses on the treated area to protect it from erosion? (3 points)	3 Point(s)
56. Is the land being treated adjacent to Federal, State, or County land where cogongrass is being treated? (4 points)	4 Point(s)
57. GL12 - Applicant wishes to prescribe graze both pasture and woodland areas with small ruminants. The wooded site for grazing is classified as "outstanding" using the Woodland Grazing site evaluation sheet. This participant will, if awarded a contract, follow prescribed grazing standards and specifications on the grass and woodland grazing systems. (30 points)	30 Point(s)
58. GL13 - Applicant wishes to prescribe graze both pasture and woodland areas with small ruminants. The wooded site for grazing is classified as "very good" using the Woodland Grazing site evaluation sheet. This participant will, if awarded a contract, follow prescribed grazing standards and specifications on the grass and woodland grazing systems. (25 points)	25 Point(s)
59. GL14 - Applicant wishes to prescribe graze both pasture and woodland areas with small ruminants. The wooded site for grazing is classified as "good" using the Woodland Grazing site evaluation sheet. This participant will, if awarded a contract, follow prescribed grazing standards and specifications on the grass and woodland grazing systems.. (5 points)	5 Point(s)

60. GL15 - Applicant wishes to prescribe graze both pasture and woodland areas with small ruminants. The wooded site for grazing is classified as "less than good" using the Woodland Grazing site evaluation sheet. This participant will, if awarded a contract, follow prescribed grazing standards and specifications on the grass and woodland grazing systems. (-50 points)	-50 Point(s)
61. Will the offered acres address water quality impairments? Must be in a 12 digit watershed with a stream segment on the ADEM 303d list due to pollution from agricultural source (GIS layer "AL2016 303d_line") or a TMDL stream with an agricultural related pollutant (GIS layer "2016_AL_approved_TMDLs_lines")?	20 Point(s)
70 Will the offered acres benefit T&E aquatic species within a Strategic Habitat Unit (GIS polygon layer "SHUs" or within 1 mile upstream of Critical Habitat (GIS layer "crithab_line"))?	15 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
TBD	150 Point(s)
TBD	75 Point(s)
TBD	100 Point(s)

Land Use;
Associated Agriculture Land;
Crop;
Farmstead;
Forest;
Other;
Pasture;

Resource Concerns	Practices
Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	Brush Management
Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	Herbaceous Weed Control
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Prescribed Grazing
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Fence
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Forage and Biomass Planting
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Firebreak
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Forest Stand Improvement
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Forest Trails and Landings
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Fuel Break
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Prescribed Burning
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Structures for Wildlife
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Tree/Shrub Establishment
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Tree/Shrub Pruning
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food	Early Successional Habitat Development/M
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food	Forest Stand Improvement
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food	Fuel Break
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food	Hedgerow Planting
Insufficient Water: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water	Irrigation Pipeline

Insufficient Water: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water	Irrigation System, Microirrigation
Insufficient Water: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water	Irrigation Water Management
Insufficient Water: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water	Sprinkler System
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Feed and Forage	Forage and Biomass Planting
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Feed and Forage	Nutrient Management
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Feed and Forage	Prescribed Grazing
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Feed and Forage	Silvopasture Establishment
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Feed and Forage	Stream Crossing
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Shelter	Land Clearing
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Shelter	Livestock Shelter Structure
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water	Livestock Pipeline
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water	Pond
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water	Pond Sealing - Clay Treatment
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water	Pond Sealing or Lining, Bentonite Sealan
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water	Pumping Plant
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water	Spring Development
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water	Water Well
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water	Watering Facility
Soil Erosion: Classic Gully Erosion	Grade Stabilization Structure
Soil Erosion: Classic Gully Erosion	Lined Waterway or Outlet
Soil Erosion: Classic Gully Erosion	Water and Sediment Control Basin
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion	Access Road
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion	Critical Area Planting
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion	Diversio
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion	Field Border
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion	Grassed Waterway
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion	Land Smoothing
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion	Stormwater Runoff Control

Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion	Terrace
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion	Underground Outlet
Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion	Conservation Cover
Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion	Mulching
Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion	Prescribed Grazing
Soil Erosion: Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance Channels	Streambank and Shoreline Protection
Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion	Conservation Crop Rotation
Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter	Prescribed Grazing
Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion	Cover Crop
Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion	High Tunnel System
Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion	Residue Mgmt, Reduced Till
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Amendments for Treatment of Ag Waste
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Animal Mortality Facility
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Composting Facility
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Contour Buffer Strips
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Filter Strip
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Heavy Use Area Protection
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Nutrient Management
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Riparian Forest Buffer
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Roof Runoff Structure
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Roofs and Covers
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Short Term Storage of Animal Waste and B
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Waste Facility Closure
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Waste Separation Facility
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Waste Storage Facility
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Waste Treatment

Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Waste Treatment Lagoon
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Water Well Decommissioning
Water Quality Degradation: Pesticides in Surface Water	Agrichemical Handling Facility
Water Quality Degradation: Pesticides in Surface Water	Integrated Pest Management
Water Quality Degradation: Pesticides in Surface Water	Water Well Decommissioning

Ranking Score

Efficiency:

Local Issues:

State Issues:

National Issues:

Final Ranking Score:

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date:

